

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0470

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 3931

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: MISSING GREEK CYPRIOTS

1. IN MY NOVEMBER 6 CONVERSATION WITH HDIM ON OTHER MATTERS, PRESIDENT CLERIDES DISCUSSED ONE OF THE KEY ISSUES REMAINING TO BE WORKED OUT WITH DENKTASH ON HUMANITARIAN SIDE OF LEDGER: GREEK CYPRIOTS WHO CONTINUE TO BE MISSING AND WHO WERE NOT COVERED UNDER ANY OF CATEGORIES OF EXCHANGED PERSONS AS HERETOFORE AGREED.

2. ASKING THAT HIS REMARKS REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL, CHRISTOPHIDES SAID PROBLEM MORE MANAGEABLE THAN PREVIOUSLY FEARED AND NEEDED TO BE DEALT WITH BY CATEGORY. GOC HAS NOW REVISED ITS LIST OF MISSING PERSONS DOWN TO 2300 FROM EARLIER ESTIMATES OF 3500. THIS CONSISTED OF 2000 NATIONAL GUARDSMEN AND 300 CIVILIANS. WHEN A SPECIFIC CONSCRIPT CLASS WAS RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY A FEW DAYS AGO, NO LESS THAN 800 DESERTERS FROM THIS CLASS CAME FORWARD TO OBTAIN THEIR DISCHARGES. THUS, NUMBER OF MISSING NATIONAL GUARDSMEN NOW STANDS AT 1200. WITH RELEASE IN NEXT DAY OR TWO OF ANOTHER CLASS, IT IS EXPECTED THAT AS
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MANY AS 200 MORE DESERTERS MAY PRESENT THEMSELVES. OF

THE THEN REMAINING 1000, ABOUT 50 PERCENT CAN BE ASSUMED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED EITHER IN JULY COUP OR SUBSEQUENT HOSTILITIES WITH TURKS. THIS WILL LEAVE SOME 500 MISSING BUT POSSIBLY STILL ALIVE. PRIVATE INFORMATION REACHING CLERIDES INDICATED THAT THERE WERE STILL GROUPS HIDING IN TURKISH ZONE. HE WOULD BE PASSING THIS ON A BASIS OF PERSONAL TRUST TO DENKTASH TO WORK OUT QUIET ARRANGEMENTS FOR RELEASE THROUGH ICRC GOOD OFFICES.

3. OF 300 MISSING CIVILIANS, ACCORDING CLERIDES, SOME ARE STILL IN TURKISH ZONE EITHER IN HIDING OR DISPLACED FROM THEIR ORIGINAL VILLAGES AS RESULT OF REGROUPING CARRIED OUT BY TURKS. OTHERS HAD BEEN TRACED TO FORCED LABOR GROUPS CREATED BY TURKS. IN THESE CASES, ALSO, CLERIDES WILL BE WORKING THROUGH DENKTASH. PRESIDENT ESTIMATED THAT SORTING OUT THESE CASES AND OTHER REMAINING HUMANITARIAN ISSUES WOULD TAKE ANOTHER THREE OR FOUR WEEKS OF NEGOTIATIONS.
RAWFORD

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